

29 October 1976

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
Critical Collection Problems Committee

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: CCPC Study on Intelligence Activities
Against Illicit Narcotics Trafficking

1. The attached Critical Collection Problems Committee (CCPC) Study is an update of the 1972 CCPC Study on Intelligence Activities Against Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. This Study examines current collection activities committed to the problem and the relationship among U.S. intelligence and enforcement agencies conducting such activities, determines what improvements in intelligence coverage have been achieved, identifies intelligence deficiencies and recommends measures that might be taken to improve our overall intelligence coverage.

2. The Study is submitted in two parts: (a) a covering report containing an Executive Summary of intelligence activities against illicit narcotics trafficking, and a Conclusions and Recommendations section; and (b) a Back-up Study. (A Special Annex is forwarded in separate channels.)

3. The CCPC has made a detailed review and evaluation of current intelligence information collection activities targeted against illicit narcotics trafficking. This intelligence target, however, is a most difficult one for the Intelligence Community since the primary users of narcotics intelligence (especially raw intelligence) are law enforcement agencies (such as the Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Customs Service) which are not directly associated with the Intelligence Community apparatus. Court procedures, regulations and interpretations of statutes circumscribe the extent of association between the Community and the law enforcement process. Narcotics intelligence is essential to the international narcotics control effort but a fundamental problem has yet to be resolved--to what extent can (or should) the Intelligence Community be involved in the international narcotics control effort.

NFIB-D-64.7/4

CCPC-D-5/76

4. Although there have been some improvements in the U.S. narcotics intelligence effort, several additional measures should be taken to improve the intelligence product. Several of the problems requiring attention, action and resolution, however, are themselves manifestations of the fundamental question of the appropriate role of the Intelligence Community. There is a problem in developing the necessary support for the narcotics intelligence effort and, consequently, an imbalance in the allocation of resources devoted to this effort. To date, the exchange of narcotics intelligence information among the various enforcement and intelligence agencies and operational coordination of U.S. clandestine collection operations has not been sufficient.

5. The Committee has concluded that since the Intelligence Community's participation in and assistance to the narcotics control effort are limited and are not likely to change appreciably without revision in current policy and regulations, the Director of Central Intelligence should seek National Security Council consideration of the problem and generation of guidance for the Intelligence Community. It is also considered important that the Department of Justice respond expeditiously on the Drug Enforcement Administration's request for clear guidelines as to its relationship with U.S. foreign intelligence agencies in general and with the National Security Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency in particular.

6. It is recommended that the NFIB:

a. Approve the Executive Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations; and

b. Note the Back-up Study and Special Annex.

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(5 October 1976)

Acting Chairman